

FLORENCE HOWIE CROZIER BURNS

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Florence Howie Crozier Burns

(1886 - )

Mrs. Burns was born in Honolulu, Maui to Joseph Gibb and Margaret Campbell Howie. Her father, an architect, had come to Hawaii from Scotland to work with her maternal grandfather, Thomas S. Campbell, owner of the Laupahoehoe Plantation. After Joseph Howie's death, her mother married Charles Crozier whose family name she assumed.

After attending Punahou School and Central Grammar School, Mrs. Burns returned to Maui to teach. In 1912 she married Caleb E.S. Burns, a plantation executive who died in 1967. They had one son, Caleb E.S. Burns, Jr., an executive with American Factors, Incorporated. His wife is the former Ann Bishop Walker. They have four children.

Mrs. Burns relates her own and her husband's family history; and tells some amusing anecdotes about their own experiences.

Lynda Mair, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH FLORENCE HOWIE CROZIER BURNS

(MRS. CALEB EDGAR SLOCUM BURNS)

At her Pohai Nani apartment, 45-090 Namoku Street, Kaneohe 96744  
On November 3, 1971

B: Florence Howie Crozier Burns

M: Lynda Mair, Interviewer

B: He [my maternal grandfather, Thomas S. Campbell,] worked with Mr. Cornell as an engineer and helped with the flour mills there [on Maui] that Mr. Cornell was starting.

M: This is your grandfather, now, or your father?

B: My grandfather. My father's people, his ancestors, came over from France to Greenwich, Scotland. That was where my father [Joseph Gibb Howie] was born, so I've got a little bit of French floating around somewhere in my genes. (laughs) I'm glad I have because, you know, I have two things left in my life: one is a good humor and the other is a bad character and I'm going to hang on to the both of them. (Lynda laughs)

And then he [my grandfather] was on the gunboat Pen-sacola. He was an engineer on the first steamer that used to ply between San Francisco and Hawaii and it was called the Moses Taylor but it was nicknamed the "Rolling Moses." (laughter) If you're not interested . . .

M: No, this is good. Keep going. This is, now, on your father's side or your mother's side?

B: On my mother's side.

M: What was this man's name that you were talking about?

B: Who, my grandfather?

M: Yeh.

B: Thomas S. Campbell. If you're not interested, why, you can scratch it off.

M: No, that's fine. That's just what I wanted to know. Is that how he got to Hawaii, then?

B: Yes, um hm, and he brought his family out here [in 1873]. He and Mr. Lidgate started Laupahoehoe Plantation and he finally owned Laupahoehoe Plantation in Hilo, Hawaii. [Laupahoehoe is about twenty-three miles from Hilo.]

M: Your grandfather Campbell.

B: Um hm.

M: About what year did he get to Hawaii?

B: Well, it doesn't say here. It must have been after the Civil War [1861-1865]. Right after the Civil War. Oh, I know. In 1873. I see it here now (in notes she is referring to) because when I joined the Daughters of Hawaii I had to find all this out.

M: Yes, he had to be here before 1879 [for her to be eligible to join].

B: My mother went to Punahou [School] and she married Joseph Gibb Howie.

M: Howie?

B: H-O-W-I-E. That was my name. In French it's H-O-U-I-E and then the Scots changed it to H-O-W-I-E. They always change the spelling. (laughs) And then my father died. The rest I don't think is . . .

M: Now wait a minute. I've got some problems here. Your mother's father's name was Campbell?

B: That's right.

M: Now how did her name get to be Howie? That's her married name.

B: She married my father. Um hm.

M: Oh. What was her first name?

B: Margaret Adelaide Campbell.

M: She was born in Hilo.

B: No, she was born in New York City.

M: Oh, he brought his family out here with him.

B: [She was born] in 1864.

M: And then she married your father who was . . .

B: And then he died.

M: What was your father's full name? (loud traffic noise)

B: Joseph Gibb Howie.

M: Is that G-I-B-B?

B: That's right.

M: Was he here in Hawaii for a long time?

B: No, he came out here and he was an architect. He was the one that helped my grandfather with the mill there at Lapaohoe and that's where he met my mother.

M: Oh, I see. Where had he come from?

B: Scotland. (chuckles)

M: Oh, from Scotland.

B: Yes. (long pause)

M: Then you say he died shortly after.

B: Yes, he died shortly after I was born.

M: Could we close this (window)?

B: Is it too much wind on you?

M: No, no. It's just kind of noisy.

B: Okay. (Lynda closes the window but traffic noise continues in the background) I'm trying to see here (in her notes). That was out at Honolua [on Maui]--that's just beyond Kaanapali--and out to Kahakuloa. He [my grandfather] had all the water rights up Honokohau and Honokowai. And then my father went out there and managed that. Now wait a minute till I find it for you. (long pause) First he [my grandfather] went to Paia, Maui and then he was at different plantations on Maui for Alexander & Baldwin, [Incorporated]. It was H.P. Baldwin, I guess, at that time.

M: This is your father?

B: My grandfather.

M: Oh, your grandfather. This is after he bought Laupahoe-hoe?

B: Well, he sold out at Laupahoe-hoe.

M: Oh, I see.

B: And then he bought Honolua [Ranch], Maui and he had lots of cattle and horses. That's when the State [Kingdom of Hawaii] could stock it. And a daughter was born--the first white child born in that district. Now that is the district of Honolua, not Lahaina.

M: Honolua. Is that H-O-N-O-L-U-A? How do you spell that?

B: Just a minute till I find it.

M: I'm not familiar with that.

B: H-O-N-O-L-U-A.

M: That's where you were born, then.

B: And that was the first time a white child had been born in that district and my mother had a Hawaiian woman for a midwife. And how I happen to know: when my husband [Caleb E.S. Burns] went back to Lahaina to be manager of Pioneer Mill Company, Charlie [Charles] Hoopii was there and it was his mother that was there when I was born and he told me this story.

M: Oh, for heaven's sake.

B: Let me see a minute. There were quite a number of Hawaiians up in the valley--up there in Honolua valley--and they came from all over to see me. They had never seen a white child before. (chuckles) This Charlie Hoopii's mother was my mother's midwife when I was born and Charlie told me that when I was a month old she came and took me home. I belonged to her.

M: Oh really? (laughs)

B: Um hm. I can imagine it. I used to have blue eyes and she said I belonged to her so she took me home. It took all the people around to get me back again. (Lynda laughs) Isn't that interesting?

M: Yeh.

B: Then my father died out there at Honolua.

M: What year was that when he died, do you know?

B: In 1890. Then my mother remarried Mr. Charles Crozier.

M: Is that C-R-O-Z-I . . .

B: Z-I-E-R, um hm.

M: What did he do? Was he a plantation man too?

B: He worked for the Honolulu Iron Works.

M: Oh, in town here?

B: In Honolulu. My sister and I then went to live with my grandmother and grandfather [Campbell] at Paia, Maui.

M: Oh, I see. One question, getting back to your grandparents: what was your grandmother's maiden name?

B: Paterson. Like Paterson, New Jersey. Her descendants, I guess, or relatives or something settled in New Jersey in Paterson [named for New Jersey's Governor William Paterson, 1745-1806].

M: And what was her first name?

B: Helen Alice.

M: Helen Alice Paterson. Is that Paterson with two T's? P-A-T-T?

B: No, one. P-A-T-E-R-S-O-N. That's what it says here.

M: And your grandfather at that time was manager at Paia?

B: My grandfather?

M: Uh huh.

B: He never was manager. He was an engineer and he worked in the mills there for Mr. [Henry Perrine] Baldwin, I guess.

M: I see. And you went to live with them--you and your sister.

B: That's right.

M: What's your sister's name?

B: My sister's name was Alice [Belle Howie Crozier (Mrs. Clarence T.)] Stevenson.

M: That's her married name.

B: That's her married name, um hm. She's dead. There were five of us and I'm the only one left. I'm too tough to die. (laughter)

M: Did your father and mother have five children?

B: No, but my mother had five, you see. I have three half-brothers and then my sister and myself.

M: I see.

B: All my three half-brothers are dead. Do you want to know their names?

M: Yeh, while we're on the subject.

B: Charles Campbell Crozier and Thomas Elmer Crozier and George Douglas Crozier.

M: These three were born in Honolulu, then.

B: Yes, they were all born in Honolulu. Douglas was quite an athlete at Punahou [School]. They called him Jinky. (Lyn-da laughs) His name still has quite a. . . . And he went to Cornell [University] and was quite an athlete there, but he died in Honolulu.

M: Were you well-acquainted with them?

B: Oh yes, later. Later.

M: How long did you stay with your grandparents on Maui?

B: Oh, I guess I was eight years old.

M: When you came back.

B: When I came back to Honolulu, um hm. I went to Punahou for awhile, then afterwards I went to Central Grammar [School]. Is there anything else you want to know?

M: Yeh.

B: What?



M: Can you remember any of your experiences living with your grandparents?

B: At Maui?

M: Um hm.

B: Well, I don't know if it would be of interest. Then I went to Maui [to teach] and I was married to Mr. Caleb E. S. Burns. He came from Maine. [They were married in 1912.]

M: How did you meet him?

B: On Maui. The early bird caught the worm, you know. (laughter) Don't put that down, though.

M: Well, you finished school here.

B: Then I went up [to Maui] to teach school and that's where I met him. He had come out to Maui from Maine. A cousin of his brought him out here--Mr. Arthur [W.] Collins.

M: Arthur what?

B: Collins. Arthur W. Collins. He was Caleb's cousin.

M: What did your husband do for a living?

B: Hm?

M: What did your husband come out for?

B: To work on the plantation. And then we lived about ten miles away from the nearest neighbor.

M: At where? Where was this?

B: At Pulehu. That was on the side of the hill there. There wasn't any way of going anywhere except on horseback, so I rode horseback everywhere. When we went to a party, why, we rode horseback and put our clothes in the saddlebag. (Lynda laughs) We got our meat once a week and we never had ice. We used to have milk that came from Kula up above us. And let me see, what else? Oh, I did my own work too.

And then Caleb went to Wailuku as assistant manager in 1922, and in 1922 we went to Koloa--in March of '22.

M: You went to where?

B: Koloa, Kauai. He went there as manager. That was in

March. And in September 1922, bag and baggage we went back to Lahaina and he became manager of Pioneer Mill Company. We were there for thirteen years and then we went bag and baggage to Lihue, Kauai. He went there as general manager and I lived there for forty years.

M: In Lihue.

B: In Lihue. And then, of course, he became ill and there wasn't anything. He retired. That was in 1950. We couldn't stay there any longer, you know, and run a big house so they talked me into coming over here and in three days I moved. (laughter) I did. When I made up my mind to move, I moved with everything. And here I am.

M: You moved straight from Lihue to Pohai Nani.

B: That's right.

M: Oh, my goodness.

B: And so I made up my mind that that was the thing to do, you see, and that gave me a chance to put Mr. Burns over at Kaanahole. He never belonged here. He was a private patient over there for four years. So after he passed away a year ago, why, somebody asked if I was going to move out. I said, "Yes, in a box." (laughter) So that's that. I've had quite a career, you know.

M: Yeh. Did you ever go back to teaching school after you got married?

B: Oh yes, I did privately. When we were in Wailuku and they had that big flu epidemic . . .

M: When was that?

B: Let me see. Oh, you remember, it was the worst flu epidemic they had and people died all over the place and I substituted. They couldn't get anybody to teach so I substituted. It was only for a year. You're too young to remember all that. (chuckles) No, I've never gone back. I was a parasite like a parrot. (laughter)  
We have one son.

M: What's his name?

B: His name is Caleb E.S. Burns, Jr.

M: Oh. Okay, that makes it simple.

B: And he graduated from Lahainaluna High School and from there he went to Stanford [University] to get his degree and he's with AMFAC [American Factors, Incorporated]. He's the executive vice president of AMFAC and he has four children. He's married to Ann [Bishop] Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Alexander Walker's daughter. (long pause) I've never done my duty to society but he did. (laughter)

M: It's not popular anymore to have a big family.

B: Hm?

M: It's not considered good to have those big families anymore.

B: No, no, no. I was all right, you know. I only had one.

M: I'd be interested in any of the stories that you recall.

B: Pardon?

M: I'd be interested in any stories or recollections that stand out in your mind of your experiences and those of your husband or your friends or whatever.

B: Well, at the time that my husband was manager, there weren't any hotels in those days so the manager really entertained all the VIP's and the passers-by and everything else. We had a senator and his wife one time on Kauai. Of course AMFAC's awfully sensible [about] who they wanted to have to dinner to meet this nobility. When they came, I wasn't home. I had to go out that afternoon so I said to the maid, "Now when the senator and his wife come, put them in the guest cottage." So she did. So I didn't see them until about dinner time.

I think there were about, oh, I guess fourteen people to dinner. It was a sit-down dinner; it wasn't a buffet. And the senator's wife--I'm not mentioning any names--was very naive, I thought. She kept looking at me and looking at me and finally she said, "Are you older than your husband?" See, my hair has always been white. I used to have bright yellow hair and you know how that goes. Well, there was a quietness at the table and I looked at her and I said, "Well, I'll tell you. It's a family secret but I will tell you that my husband dyes his hair." He never had gray hair, you know. Never. (laughter) What could I say?

M: Yeh.

B: And one time I had guests for lunch and I used to keep a

diary. I wish I had it, I'd show it to you, but I think it's with my things at HC & D. And I had a notebook, you know, for prominent people to write their names in when they came to lunch or dinner. So one time I said, "Would you sign my guest book?" to one of my guests and the other one said, "Oh, that's very thoughtful of you. I think it's nice. You can take it off your income tax, you know." (Lynda laughs) Now there you are. Oh dear, some of them were something.

M: You had to be prepared for these people dropping by.

B: Oh yes.

M: Did you have a lot of servants?

B: Well, I had a cook in the kitchen and I had two maids. That's about all. But it was the equipment that I had to have which was all personal. I could set a table for forty-eight and I didn't borrow one thing.

M: All your own china and everything?

B: All my own china and all my own silver and everything else. I enjoyed it. (chuckles) Some people think it was kind of rugged but I didn't. I enjoyed it. I had another set of guests [including] a senator who later became a governor. He and his wife came out and he was then in Washington. I think he was a senator and he was head of the insular possessions of the United States and she was one of these very grande dames, you know, and so forth. She said she thought on the plantation that people who were in the upper brackets didn't treat the ones in the lower brackets properly and all that junk, you know.

She went around in the different camps to look at the things and see how the women were taken care of. She picked one place that she wanted to go, so they went there and the mother came to the door and the senator's wife said, "I'd like to see what you have in your house." So she said, "Come in." Afterwards the senator's wife said, "Where do you do your laundry?" "Oh," she said, "I don't do any laundry. I send it out." (laughter)

Well, that afternoon at the hotel they had this cocktail party for them and all the hoi polloi went. Do you know what hoi polloi is?

M: Um hm.

B: Well, then we had a group--quite a number that were at the cocktail party--and I guess the others felt kind of left out of it. When we were at the table, why, the maid came

and she said, "Mrs. Burns, so-and-so is at the door." So I went out and here were about twenty-four of the people from the cocktail party--all of them Japanese, Hawaiians, Portuguese and everybody--with the music. Well, I said, "Come in." We had a great big sitting room so I said, "Come in. Sit down." So they came in and sat down. Mr. Gomes could play the ukulele quite well. So they settled down and I said to the maid, "Well, give them cheese and crackers and what have you."

So we sat in the dining room and had dinner and after dinner we went in and here were all the hoi polloi sitting around on the floor, you know. So the senator's wife said to me, "Do you entertain these people like this all the time?" I said, "Certainly. They're my best friends." Charlie [Charles M.] Hite and Alice [G. Schultz Atkinson Hite]--Charlie was acting governor at that time--they were with us, so I said to Alice, "Let's give them a show." So Alice took off her shoes and so did I and Clem [Clement Gomes] played the ukulele and we did the hula for them. (laughter) So you see, I've enjoyed it all.

M: Uh huh.

B: I've had a lot of experiences but it's all a memory. You know what they say: your memories and indiscretions--when you're old that's all you have left. (laughter) Isn't that right?

M: Do you remember anything from earlier days before you were married? Your childhood or school experiences?

B: We didn't have very many in those days. We had to go to school and I had to walk to school too. We lived up on Piikoi Street and I had to walk down into Honolulu to school. Then finally they gave me a bicycle and then I used to ride the bicycle. Then they used to have a street-car, you know, they drove with horses so we'd hang on the back of the car so it would pull us home. Then the poor old driver, he'd come back to yell at us. Of course he'd have to roll the reins around the brake and slide back. By that time, we'd let go. (laughter)

Well, there were a lot of experiences that nowadays don't amount to very much, I guess.

M: Where did you live on Piikoi?

B: On the corner of Hassinger [Street] and Piikoi.

M: Hassinger? Where's that?

B: You know there's a fire station at the head of Piikoi

Street?

M: Yeh.

B: Well, we lived right below there, right on Piikoi Street.

M: Did you know the John Walker kids?

B: The what?

M: John Walker kids. They lived on the corner of Piikoi and King [streets].

B: What were their names?

M: Barbara Walker and Lee Walker.

B: Um hm. Yes, I knew them and then I also knew the Clarence Whites and the Davis family and all that crowd. Alma Davis. And I knew Sam [Samuel Pailthorpe] King's mother, Pauline [Evans (Mrs. Samuel Wilder)] King. Oh, a lot of them but, living on the plantation so long, I lost track of a lot of them.

M: Yeh.

B: When my mother lived at Honolua, there wasn't any road from Lahaina to Wailuku. You had to go around Kahakuloa. I think Mr. George Farnsworth and Mr. Hugh Howard were the engineers that put that road through. Have you been on Maui?

M: No, I'm going to make a trip over there in a couple of months to interview people. (doorbell chimes and someone enters)

#### END OF SIDE 1/1ST TAPE

And there's another thing too. When you go over there, where there used to be a gymnasium, all that land in there the water used to come up inside. That was filled from dredging the harbor there at Lahaina. So when you go over there you can see that.

And across from Lahaina, looking that way toward Wailuku side, where the church--I think it's burned down but I don't know--they used to have to go, my mother said, from one side to the other. (laughter) (Mrs. Burns speaks to the person who entered and is now leaving) Mabel's been with me for four years. She comes every day. I'm a lazy thing; I don't like to work. (laughter)

M: You're lucky you can indulge yourself.

B: Well yes, I had a good grandfather. It makes a difference, you know. So, what else do you want to know?

M: What happened to your grandparents? Did you keep in contact with them after you came over to Honolulu?

B: Oh yes. My grandfather was killed in the mill at Paia. After four years in the Civil War he wasn't injured, but one day he was walking by one of the machines there--you know the big wheel?--and it caught his arm and tore his arm off his body and he was killed. Then my grandmother came to live with us and she lived with us until she was ninety-six years old.

M: Wow. When did she die?

B: I'll look it up.

M: And could I get your grandfather's? The date of his death.

B: She died in 1925 at the age of ninety-six.

M: Nineteen twenty-five.

B: Um hm. And she was a Scotch Presbyterian until she died.

M: Scotch? Was she strict?

B: Oh! Grandmother always said that the automobile was the devil's contraption. Always said it.

M: Really?

B: But poor old Grandmother. When she died they brought the ambulance to take her away and they took her in an automobile. (chuckles)

M: She'd never been in one?

B: No, she wouldn't get in one. She wouldn't.

M: For heaven's sake.

B: Oh no, she was a stubborn old woman, but I'll tell you--you know, they say that old age is so sad, they live in the past, but living with Grandmother all the time I don't think it's so sad. She enjoyed the past. What would she have if she hadn't the past to enjoy at her age? Of course it was annoying, I guess, to people around but she enjoyed

it and she lived in the past. She couldn't live in the future. What is it they say? Old people live in the past and youth deals in the future and middle-aged folks just look tired. (laughter) Isn't that correct?

M: Yeh, that about sums it up.

B: My grandfather and my mother and all of my family are buried up in Nuuanu Cemetery. When I was living on Kauai, they divided up the Haena hui. That is the hui they had out there and Paul Rice asked me if I didn't want to buy one of the lots and I said, "Sure I'll buy it." So I bought this thing. I think it's two acres right on the beach--beautiful swimming and everything--but I never improved it because, well, Caleb was ill and it was a way from Lihue.

Then they were going to build this hotel when I came over here and I went back to sign and Clinton Charles was then in real estate. He was after me for a long time to sell it. Oh, it was all right. Some malihini would come in and buy it and what have you. Well, I decided I wouldn't sell it because I didn't pay too much for it and if I sold it for what he wanted to give me, why, Uncle Sam would get most of it. So one night he called me at ten o'clock. He said, "Florence, you'd better sell that property out there. You'll never come back here to live." I said, "I know I won't." "Well," he said, "why don't you sell it?" and I said, "Well, Clint, you've asked me that three or four times. But I'm going to tell you something. I only own two pieces of real estate. It's that one and the other one is in Nuuanu Cemetery and I'm not going to sell either." (laughter) So I turned around and gave it to my son to get rid of it.

My grandfather is up there and my grandmother and my brothers and my mother--all of them--and they can plant me there if they want to. (both chuckle)

M: Let's see. You said that your stepfather was Charles Crozier.

B: Um hm.

M: He stayed with Honolulu Iron Works, then.

B: Yes. He was born in--oh, I don't know, it was mixed up but I think he was born in Ireland, then he came to New Zealand and from there he came over here. I went to New Zealand and stayed with his mother and father and family for six months.

M: When you were a child?



B: Um hm. When I was about fifteen years old. I've been back there five times. I've been everywhere, darling. You name the country and I've been there. My husband and I used to go all the time. I've been everywhere.

M: Aren't you lucky.

B: We used to have a boat on Kauai, a forty-eight foot cabin cruiser, and we used to go fishing all the time. That was deep-sea fishing and one time I caught an ahi--that's a tuna--that weighed eighty pounds.

M: Good for you, wow!

B: And we used to go from Kauai to Honolulu to Maui to Molo-kai to Hawaii.

M: Wow.

B: My husband went to La Paz. That's where Pan American have their fishing lodge. He caught, I think it was, a 650 pound swordfish. And while there we met Ernest Hemingway and his wife and they were filming The Old Man and The Sea; and of all the people, I think, that we ever met in our travels he was the most delightful. Very charming, very delightful, and his wife was lovely too. He was the most gracious person. He was then reading and looking over the books that were to be published before they were published to see if they would be on the market and be a seller. And so the second night we were there, he came in with a pile of books and he said, "Now, just take these and read them. I don't want them back again." I thought he was a very charming and gracious person.

M: Hm. Yeh.

B: Then from there we went all over South America. We went from Brazil to Johannesburg by boat, went all over Africa. We never went on tours, though; we always had a chauffeur. And we went up to Cairo and from Cairo we flew over to Greece, went all down the coast, and from Portugal we flew to New York. From New York we flew to Vancouver and then up into Choku Lake and went trout fishing up there.

M: Hmm.

B: Then I think we flew from Toronto into God's Lake and then up the God's River and way back inside and went fishing. You know God's Lake empties into Hudson Bay.

M: Pretty far north, isn't it? (laughs)

B: Yes, it is.

M: Is this stream fishing you were doing?

B: Hm?

M: Were you stream fishing for trout?

B: Well, not in God's Lake we weren't. Where the waterfall is into God's Lake is about twelve feet or a little over that, I guess. Up in Canada, you know, the Canadian government, the only guides you have are Indians. Haoles are not supposed to guide. We had these two Indians and this canoe, and if we didn't go over the falls we'd have to walk all the way back. So the boys said, "Are you game?" and I said, "Yes, I have very little physical fear anyhow." Caleb was kind of hilahila, so we went shooting over and down ten feet into the lake. (chuckles)

M: Wow.

B: And then, I'll tell you, we went up to Montana. You know where the glaciers are?

M: Um hm.

B: I walked all over the glaciers. Climbed up the rope ladder to the top and was tied to the guide and we walked all over it. So there isn't anything really that I haven't done. (laughter) I've had a very, very full life. Don't you think so?

M: Yeh, I do.

B: And then one time we went from New York to Ireland and I loved it. Oh, it was beautiful. It was in the spring and there, instead of the farms being divided by stonewalls and everything, they had hawthorn hedges and it was all in bloom.

M: Umm.

B: We stayed at that castle that they speak about--Drummerlin Castle. That's not very far from Shannon. Then we flew to Scotland and went to England and then across to the Continent to Norway and Sweden and Paris. While we were in Paris, the chauffeur that we had that drove us was just getting over a strep throat and, of course, Caleb got this strep throat and all the two weeks that we were in Paris he was sick. Now I can take a temperature but I can't take respiration; so they sent me a French doctor. He

couldn't speak English and I couldn't speak French very much. I have three words. So he left these little pills. 'Course my idea of someone that has a temperature, you have to give them fluids, you know. "No, he doesn't need fluids." He gave these three little pills. He said, "You use these every two hours." I had to put them in his rectum every two hours. He was wild. He said he'd taken pills but he'd never taken pills underneath that way.

Well, you know, his temperature never went down so I went to the office and I said, "I want an American doctor or somebody that can speak English." And they said, "Well, we sent you the best we have." I said, "Well, he can't speak English. If you don't find me one, I'm going to the American consul." That's what they're there for, you know. So they sent me an American doctor.

Well, they were all ready to leave and that morning we were ready to leave, why, my throat was sore and I thought, "Oh, I can sleep in the back of the car as well as in the bed here." So when we got to Brussels, boy, I had a sore throat. The glands in my neck were out like this, so we got the doctor and he said, "Oh yes, this is bad." Well, I knew that. So he got out his little bag and a little syringe and he turned to Caleb and he said, "Have you any alcohol?" Caleb said, "No." "Oh," I said, "you have some brandy. Give him that." So he took the brandy and he put his hypo in that and gave me a shot in the fanny. I think it was the brandy that cured me. (laughter) So there you are. I've had all kinds of experiences. You don't need to write that down, though. But there are a lot of things that probably I've done that no other human has done.

We used to spend all our summers in Canada.

M: You and your husband?

B: Yes, um hm.

M: How could he get away from the plantation so much?

B: He took a vacation every year--a month--then of course when he retired, why, that was the time when we went traveling. Up to that time, why, he was away a month so we just took off. And then on top of that, when I first went to Europe I hadn't any birth certificate because I was born under the Hawaiian flag and of course I couldn't get a passport. I had an awful time trying to find somebody that knew my mother and I knew that Arthur Alexander--my mother went to Punahou [School] and my aunts went to Punahou, and so Mr. Arthur Alexander, I asked him. I said, "You knew my mother." "Yes," he said, the old devil. He said, "Yes, I knew your mother. I was at Punahou with

her, yes." "Well," I said, "then you can sign my birth certificate. I want to go to Europe." "Oh no," he said, "I can't." I said, "Why not?" He said, "I didn't witness your birth." (laughter) That floored me, but I finally got someone that signed it. Once you get a passport you're all right.

M: Um hm. How many children in your mother's family? How many brothers and sisters did she have?

B: Go back to this (her notes). There was Elizabeth Carolyn [Campbell].

M: Just one, hm?

B: My mother, and they had a brother, George Alexander [Campbell]. He died but I don't know when he died. And Ida Rose [Campbell who married John George Anderson]. They were born in New York.

M: That's it; that's four.

B: Um hm, that's right. My Aunt Ida went to Punahou for nine years [1879-88] and then she graduated from there and went to Cornell [University].

M: Ida--her name would have been Campbell.

B: And then my Aunt Elizabeth went to Punahou and after that she went to Mills Seminary which is Mills College, you know. She was one of the few that graduated from Mills Seminary.

M: Hmm.

B: My mother didn't go; she got married. (chuckles)

M: Well, your grandparents must have really believed in education, didn't they?

B: Yes, um hm. Yes, that's true; if you had a point, they were. So . . . (long pause) Can you get anything out of that mess?

M: Yeh. Yeh. I wanted to ask you--on the plantation, what did you do for amusement? I mean, just entertaining people, was that it?

B: Oh, I played golf. I did a lot of gardening and a lot of that type activities. Of course, during the war on Kauai, every week we had four aviators that had their missions

accomplished and they stayed with us a week and we looked after them. And I worked in the USO [United Service Organizations]; I was a Gray Lady. What else did I do? I guess that's about all. But every week we had four of the men.

M: What year were you married? Did you tell me?

B: What year was I married?

M: Uh huh.

B: Humph. Then you'll know my age and I'm not going to tell you. (laughter)

M: Oh, okay.

B: No, I was married in 1912 and my husband died four years ago. My grandson told me one time that I was very old-fashioned because I was married to the same man so long. (laughter)

M: You certainly were. Let's see, that's fifty-five years, huh?

B: Yes.

M: Can you tell me anything more about your husband, about his background?

B: Oh yes, I'll tell you about him. His is in a book. When I was in Boston I just adored to go in secondhand bookstores and in Boston is this Good Speed Bookshop. I don't know whether it's there now or not. They have secondhand books, books that are out of print and so forth. Well, I went in there and I was browsing around and I saw these three volumes, The History of the Slocum Family, and my husband's mother's name was Slocum. His name is Caleb Edgar Slocum Burns. Caleb Edgar Slocum was his grandfather and the Burns was his [father]. Well anyway, so I bought them and he asked me if I wanted my head examined because I paid a price for them, but afterwards he was full of them and they tell all about his ancestry.

They came over before the Revolutionary War [1775-83] and he's a descendant of John Alden.

M: John Alden?

B: Um hm.

M: For heaven's sake.

B: Yes. Oh, they're quite a family. Of course, all those books my son has. And then there's the settlement of the northeastern boundary--that's the boundary between Canada and the United States--and some back ancestor of his defended the flag and they put him in jail up there. For fourteen years he was in jail in Fredericton in Canada--imagine what kind of a jail--and he died. And then the United States government brought him back to Fort Fairfield and he's buried in the cemetery there with a monument on top of him, noting how he had defended the flag in Canada and what have you. So my husband really has quite a rich New England background.

M: Yeh. Yeh.

B: Very much so.

M: What college did your husband go to?

B: University of Maine.

M: So he spent most of his life until he came to Hawaii in Maine.

B: Yes, that's right. He did. Nowadays so many people want their ashes scattered. Well, that's their privilege. But when we went back to Maine last year--my granddaughter and my grandson and I went up to Maine--we went to the cemetery there and all the families were lying around with headstones and it was very interesting. You know, it's sort of a genealogy to go up there and see where your ancestors were born and the dates on them. Don't you think so?

M: Um hm.

B: I think having your ashes thrown away is one's own privilege, I guess, but they're all buried up there. And outside of Orono, where the university is, is a big cemetery--Clearwater--and all the people buried around, and the epitaphs on the tombstones are so funny. I remember one where it said SAMUEL PEASE and it gave his dates and where he was born and everything and underneath it said:

Here lies the body of Samuel Pease  
Under the daisies and under the trees.  
Pease is not here, only the pod;  
Pease shelled out and went home to God.

(laughter) Oh, some of them are most interesting but that's funny.

M: Oh, that's priceless.

B: Isn't that a priceless one? Some of them were very priceless. I went around there. I have a small book that I wrote them down in but that stuck in my memory. But I loved Maine. It's really beautiful, you know. They haven't any cement in the place where my husband went to school, and the school is there and the house that he was born in is still there. And he always told my son--our son, I should say--that he had to walk to school and walk home again and it was quite a ways. So after C.E.S. [our son] graduated from Stanford [University], we went back to Maine. Caleb wanted to show him where he went to school and Yankee thrift and something else. So we were sitting up there where he was born and he said to him, C.E.S. Junior, "Now that's where I had to walk and back again." Our son said to him, "That's not far." "Oh yes it is." "Oh," he said, "I can hit a golf ball farther than that." (laughter) I guess in those days it was far.

Caleb's father's farm was the borderline between Canada and the United States. The fence was right across it.

M: Oh, for heaven's sake. Really northern Maine that is.

B: Um hm. But I loved it. The homes have little patches of green grass in front of them and the cement hasn't arrived yet in that village and it's really very homelike and I loved it so. I think Hawaii is so ruined.

M: In a lot of ways.

B: You know, it's too bad because I think the atmosphere is gone. Of course I suppose that's progress but even on Kauai it's gone. I haven't been back to Lahaina for a long time. I wonder what it's like back there. I told Mabel, I said, "Let's go back to Lahaina and take a look." I just came back. I've been to the Mainland, as I told you.

M: Uh huh.

B: Went up to Seattle and my granddaughter and her children are up there. I went up through San Francisco and went through the Silverado. That's the project that AMFAC has bought up there. And I went to Monterey and Coronado and back to San Francisco. And then I went down to Los Angeles and to Las Vegas.

M: Oh, you did?

B: Yes.

M: You went gambling?

B: Yes, and I lost all my money. (laughter)

END OF SIDE 2/1ST TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Re-transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

NOTE:

Page 1 Mr. Cornell: W.H. Cornwell, listed as a "capitalist" in the first City Directory

Page 2 Mr. Lidgate: William Lidgate



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## THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.